

Monika

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES  
COMMISSIONER

August 6, 2014

The Honorable Keith Self  
County Judge  
Collin County  
2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192  
McKinney, TX 75069-5667

Dear Judge Self:

In an effort to address the threat of hunger facing more than 18 percent of our state's elderly population, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature funded the Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant program (Program) at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). We are approaching the eighth year for the Program, which provides funding to home-delivery meal providers that serve nearly 14 million meals annually to elderly and disabled Texans.

As many counties are fully aware, TDA makes every effort to facilitate the transparent and smooth accessing of these funds, although it comes with certain accountability and responsibility measures on the part of meal agencies. The Program is designed to create a partnership between the state, counties and local meal providers. In order for an applicant organization to meet eligibility requirements for this state grant, a county must also contribute a financial grant. Such contributions must be documented through a formal commissioners' court resolution, which is submitted as part of the application. The deadline for meal providers to submit applications to TDA is November 1, 2014. Applications for the program will be available in September.

I encourage all counties to take this time to ask questions, make budget plans and conduct outreach to local entities that deliver meals to senior or homebound citizens. This will help ensure eligibility requirements are met, which can further enhance meal programs in your county. County partnerships are a key component in the success of meal providers within each community. For more information on how your county can partner with these providers and to view a list of current grantees, visit the TDA website, [www.TexasAgriculture.gov](http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov), or contact the grants office at (512) 463-6908.

Sincerely yours,

*Todd Staples*

Todd Staples

TS/MWF/jn



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